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THE INDYPENDENT

Issue #91, August 10 – 30, 2006 A FREE PAPER FOR FREE PEOPLE

“I’m not
allowed
to think
what I
think.”

BY YONI MISHAL

TEL AVIV—I’m a part of Israel’s activist left. I feel physically threatened and really afraid. I’m not allowed to think what I think. Not for the past two years, when fighting with the Palestinians in Gaza was escalating to new dimensions, and not now, when rockets are falling on Israel and bombs are tearing up Lebanon. There was a protest in Rabin Square recently, but I doubt it will make any difference. I’m afraid for what will happen to my future, and the outcome of this fighting may not matter any more.

The society is corrupt, hiding behind hollow statements and flags: the country is covered with signs of Israeli flags saying “We Shall Win”, “Israel Is Strong!” and “Together We Stand” taken from the early 1950s – sponsored by cell-phone companies and banks. This hurts me so much. This is my country, these are the people I am fighting with for better education, for a better society. I’ve been doing this for as long as I can remember. But this is not something I can go on about. I try not to watch TV, but it’s enough to read the headlines about the intention of the Israeli military to destroy entire villages, or the calls for revenge to see that some demon is off the chain.

It’s something I can’t explain in words. This is not easy for me. I use words for a living, I’m a writer and a teacher. It frightens me. Anyone who thinks differently is a traitor in the eyes of the people here, and I feel how my family and some friends are backing off of me. They don’t want to understand what I feel, or hear what I have to say.

Large parts of the left, including some close friends of mine, are supporting this so-called “war.” And I just can’t believe it. This can’t be true. I see how little girls and boys in the north are given bombs to decorate before they are shot in to Lebanon. There is not a bit of humor, when these photos are captioned “kids from the north sending a message to Nasrallah” my heart losses a beat. “No” is all I can think. Who are the parents of these kids? And why don’t they take them away from this horror?

I have a group of friends that see through all this, and we will be at the protest tonight, but we are alone. I never felt so lonely in this battle. There is no one to call for help. When about 2,500 people protested the invasion of Lebanon, and the killing in Gaza. I wondered if more than double that number in the entire country supported this view. I don’t know what to do.

I’ve been called up for reserve duty in September. I don’t intend to go.

Yoni Mishal is a community coordinator in Florentin neighborhood in Tel Aviv, and a teacher at Hamidrasha Arts College.

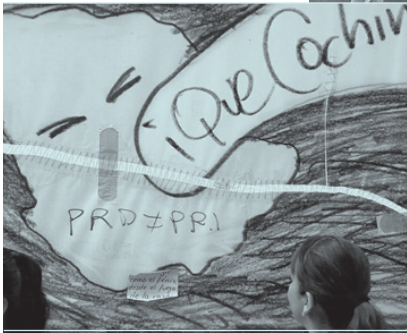


SEBASTIAN SCHEINER/AP

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The Independent is funded by benefits, subscriptions, donations, grants and ads from organizations and individuals with similar missions.

WHAT CAN I DO TO GET INVOLVED?

The IMC has an open door. You can write and distribute for *The Independent*, videotape events and rallies, update the website, self-publish articles to the web, take photos or just help us run the office. As an organization relying on volunteer support, we encourage all forms of participation.

The print team reserves the right to edit articles for length, content and clarity. We welcome your participation in the entire editorial process.

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URBAN ESCAPE: Roughly 15 gardeners that identify themselves as Harlem United Gardens or HUG meet weekly on Friday evenings to prevent the further destruction of green space in their neighborhood. PHOTO: ULA KURAS

Resisting the de-Greening of Harlem

BY ULA KURAS

Over the past decade, Victor Medina has watched the 116th St. Block Association community garden in East Harlem evolve from an undesirable lot used to store stolen car parts to a bountiful garden filled with berries, cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers and peaches.

With 100 members and located across the street from a senior's center, the garden serves as a refuge from urban life and as a venue for meetings, birthday parties and holiday celebrations.

"It's a relief," said Medina. "I sit here and it takes me back to Puerto Rico. We listen to some music, invite senior citizens, and enjoy the breeze."

However, the 2523 square ft. lot at 8 E. 116th St. could soon be transformed again as the city's Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) has already drilled three holes at the site to test the ground for construction development.

"[HPD] tears things down, we don't know if we should keep on preserving just for it to be destroyed," said Medina in frustration.

Currently, more than 50 community gardens are in danger of being sold to real estate developers. Nineteen are located in Harlem, the majority of which lie between East 110th and 119th Streets and 5th and Lexington Avenues. The threat has prompted Medina, along with a group of roughly 15 other gardeners identify-

ing themselves as Harlem United Gardens (HUG) to meet weekly on Friday evenings in order to prevent the further destruction of green space in their neighborhood.

"We need more green space in this neighborhood, not less," said Aresh Javadi, a garden activist and co-founder of More Gardens Coalition, an organization that advocates for the preservation of community gardens.

"All you smell is cement and construction work," said Benay Chisholm of Nueva Esperanza (New Hope) Garden at E. 110th and 5th Ave., which is slated to be replaced by a joint venture of the Museum for African Art and a developer of luxury condominiums. "I understand we need housing, but they should allow us some green space. We put 18 years of our love in it."

The struggle over New York's community gardens dates back to the late 1990s when the Giuliani administration auctioned off green space to developers. Despite fierce public opposition, a number of gardens were subsequently bulldozed.

A 1998 lawsuit by State Attorney General Elliot Spitzer blocked further destruction of the city's community gardens and eventually culminated in the Community Garden Agreement of 2002. One hundred and ninety-eight gardens were granted permanent protection, which was hailed a victory by many, particularly after years of struggle with the unsympathetic Giuliani administration.

But the fate of the remaining gardens under

the jurisdiction of HPD was still undecided. One hundred and fourteen gardens were designated for development pending a garden review process, including 116th St. Block Association and Nueva Esperanza. The review required providing advance notification to the gardener, completing paperwork on the description and activity of the garden, and offering alternate sites if available. It also provided an opportunity for the gardener to appeal to their council members and fight for permanent protection.

The movement to protect the gardens has drawn support from Council Member Melissa Viverito (D-East Harlem), who briefly attended last week's meeting. "We do need affordable housing but we don't need to lose valuable green space," Viverito said to the group.

As a means of negotiating with HPD on which sites would be given priority over development, Javadi is working with gardeners to provide comprehensive backgrounds on each garden's history, the vegetables grown and community membership. HUG is also looking to build community support in order to improve their chances of winning permanent status for the gardens or at least acquiring replacement sites.

Upcoming events include a garden produce donation drive and a party at the end of August in which all gardens will be represented with displays of food grown at the various gardens.

"We're very interested in saving what we have," Chisholm said.

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BELOW 14TH ST.

**Bluestockings
Books & Café**
172 Allen St.

Lotus Café
Clinton & Stanton Sts.

**6th St.
Community Center**
638 East 6th St.

**May Day Books
Theater for the
New City**
155 First Ave.
(Btw. 9th
@ 10th Sts.)

Housing Works
126 Crosby St.

LGBT Center
213 W. 13th St.

**Shakespeare & Co.
Books**
1 Whitehall St.

Brecht Forum
451 West St.

**14TH TO
96TH ST.
Revolution Books**
9 W. 19th St.

Chelsea Sq. Diner
23rd St. @ 9th Ave.

Domus
413 W. 44th St.

ABOVE 96TH ST.

Labyrinth Books
536 W. 112th St.

Kim's Video
113th St. @
Broadway

Karrot
181st St. @ Cabrini

**BROOKLYN
BAM**
30 Lafayette Ave.

Vox Pop
1022 Cortelyou Rd.

Tillie's of Brooklyn
248 DeKalb Ave.

Archive
49 Bogart

**Metropolitan
Laundromat**
561 Metropolitan Ave.

El Loco Burrito
243 Bushwick Ave.

**Freddy's Bar and
Backroom**
Dean St.
& 6th Ave.

**Community
Book Store**
7th Ave.
@ Carroll Sts.

Tea Lounge
Union St. @ 7th Ave.
9th St. @ 7th Ave.

**Atlantis Super
Laundry Center**
472 Atlantic Ave.

Photoplay Video
933 Manhattan Ave.

Verb Cafe
Bedford Ave.
& N. 5th

**Food for
Thought Cafe**
456 Nostrand Ave.

Veggie Castle
2242 Church Ave.

**Make the Road
by Walking**
301 Grove St.

Spoken Word Cafe
4th Ave. & Union St.

YWCA
3rd Ave. @ Atlantic

**QUEENS
Sunnyside Library**
43-06 Greenpoint
Ave.

Broadway Library
4020 Broadway

**BRONX
Bronx Museum**
165th St. & Grand
Concourse

The Point
940 Garrison Ave.

Baychester Library
2049 Asch Loop

**JERSEY
CITY
Five Corners
Library**
678 Newark Ave.

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The Battle to Rattle Ratner

BY DANIEL GOLDSTEIN

It's a land grab fueled by corporate welfare, sweetheart deals and the subversion of democracy. It's anti-community and the worst form of government and corporate collusion. What is it? It's land speculator Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards development proposal, and the only scheduled public oversight of the mammoth Brooklyn project is a single hearing to be held on Aug. 23 as a part of the state-run environmental review process.

The hearing will be held from 4:30 to 8:30pm at New York City Technical College's Klitgord Auditorium at 285 Jay St.

Out of scale and character with its surrounding low-rise residential neighborhoods, the Atlantic Yards project is the poster child of the overdevelopment epidemic that has plagued all of New York City during the Michael Bloomberg era.

At 8.8 million square feet it's the largest project proposed by a single developer in the history of New York City. With towers ranging from 20 to 60 stories, the 16-skyscraper, 20,000-seat arena development to be erected in the heart of central Brooklyn which would make it one of the densest residential communities in the United States.

Ratner, whose development firm is part of Ohio's Forest City Enterprises – the largest publicly traded real estate development corporation in the nation – has operated virtually unchecked by public authorities. The City Council and Department of City Planning have no oversight or vote on the proposal. The only political vote would be by the Public Authorities Control Board controlled by Albany's three men in a room: Gov. George Pataki, Senate Majority Leader



Projected view of 5th Ave. towards Flatbush. By architect Jonathan Cohn.

Joseph Bruno, and Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver.

While at least \$2 billion in corporate welfare would go towards the \$4.2 billion project, its approval process bypasses New York City's democratic land-use review procedures and will never require a vote of any legislature – guaranteeing maximum subsidies with no genuine political oversight.

Bill Batson, N.Y. State Assembly candidate in Brooklyn's 57th District, home to the proposed project, put it well, saying, "The commitment of these substantial public funds without a substantial public review is an affront to the blessing of democracy."

Forest City Ratner's pillaging of Brooklyn relies on the state's abuse of eminent domain, which allows the government to take private property and transfer it to private developers. In this case, the use of eminent domain depends on the "blight" findings in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement – a 2,000 page document released on July 18. Plaintiffs, property owners and rent-stabilized tenants will challenge the use of eminent domain – a challenge Ratner is clearly worried about. A victory for the plaintiffs would likely stop the project in its tracks.

Fortunately, a grassroots movement led by the umbrella group Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn (DDDB) has evolved into a community-funded, well-oiled volunteer machine over the past three years. DDDB is opposed to the project but in favor of sensible, democratic, community-based development.

The battle can and will be won, turning back the terrible precedent Atlantic Yards would represent. As Councilwoman Letitia James, who represents the areas slated for destruction rallied, "The power to fight is in your hands, it pulses through your body, it's in your blood, it runs in your veins, and we have got to fight back."

Daniel Goldstein is a spokesman for Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn

The beer you like supports the developer you can't stand

Brooklyn Brewery, a heretofore favorite with Brooklyn-philes, has been a vociferous cheerleader for Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards project. Owner Steve Hindy, who built his business on the back of Brooklyn's history and mythology, backs a project that would overrun the borough's special qualities with box-store blandness.

In February, the political sports fans' group Fans For Fair Play launched a boycott of Brooklyn Brewery. The "Think Before You Drink" campaign intends to keep consumers who oppose Ratner from inadvertently aiding him. Brooklyn Lager is a sponsor of Ratner's New Jersey Nets basketball team, has hosted parties for the Nets, and owner Hindy has spoken publicly in support of Ratner's luxury development.

Fans For Fair Play and Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn met with Hindy, walked him through the neighborhood targeted by Ratner and presented him with evidence that Ratner's skyscrapers and arena are bad for Brooklyn. The next day Hindy told the press he was 100 percent behind Ratner. So much for loving Brooklyn.

Brooklyn bars have stopped selling Hindy's beer, including Freddy's, the community pub that would be destroyed if Ratner gets his way. These days, "whattya got that isn't Brooklyn Lager?" is being heard more and more.

—SCOTT MX TURNER

You + Me = Parade?

What do you get when two people jay-walk together? A parade, according to proposed NYPD rules made public July 18. The rules were evidently issued in response to judicial criticism that the NYPD's attempts to shut down Critical Mass bike rides relied on a vaguely worded statute governing public protests and parades.

Without any legislative input, the NYPD is attempting to finalize its own redefinition. The police have called a hearing at its own headquarters on the evening of Thurs. Aug. 23 to solicit public comment. An agency (the NYPD in this case) is only required to provide notice and an opportunity for the public to be heard. After Aug. 23, they can publish the new rule in the City Record and it becomes final 30 days later.

Other provisions of the rule change would say that any group of 20 bicyclists is a parade, and any group of 35 on foot is a parade. As few as two people can constitute a parade if they move "in a manner that does not comply with all applicable traffic laws, rules and regulations."

Now you are in danger of conspiring with a complete stranger if you both accidentally step into the roadway outside of the crosswalk. Paul Browne, the police department's spokesman says the new rules "are designed to protect members of the public who find themselves in the vicinity of a group event." Feel safer?

Guild lawyers say that this is an obvious effort to crack down on Critical Mass. Civil liberties attorney Norman Siegel points out that the city tried and failed in both state court and federal court to end the bike rides. Both times, the Judge noted that "the statute does no more than list specific types of parades and processions without explaining what makes them so." This lack of definition was the reason the courts refused to ban the bike rides.

The problem with this approach is that the NYPD is an executive agency, responsive only to the Mayor. According to Siegel, only the city council has the legislative power to change the city's administrative code. "Consequently this matter has now put the council's institutional integrity on the line," he says.

So far, only councilman Alan Gerson has voiced opposition to the proposal, and no legislation has been introduced to stop the usurpation by the police of the council's role. The City Charter makes it clear that the police commissioner is charged only with the execution of the law, not with writing it.

Worse, the rule includes a new provision that defines "applicant" to mean "a person or entity that publicizes a parade through advertisements or other means of mass communication." At present, the city issues permits only to identified applicants. The redefinition of the term applicant seems to be a way to hold any person affiliated with the promotion of Critical Mass liable for parading without a permit.

There is no question that these proposed rules would be a disaster for the right to peaceably assemble in New York City. Speaker Christine Quinn has not taken any public position on the rule change. For activists, the question is whether we should try to get a less bad law, or take the position that the First Amendment is the only permit that we need. Time's Up is organizing a people's forum on Aug.17 at St. Mark's Church at 7pm to consider the best strategy.

The public hearing before the rule goes in to effect is scheduled to take place at 6pm on Aug. 23 at One Police Plaza, first floor auditorium. Check Transportation Alternative's website at www.transalt.org to confirm the place and time, and for instructions on how to submit written comments on the rule change.

The People's Lawyer is a project of the National Lawyers Guild, New York City Chapter. Reach us at 212 679-6018, or at nlgny.org.

MOBILIZATION AGAINST SWEATSHOPS

The National Mobilization Against Sweatshops (NMASS) celebrated the grand opening of their new space in Brooklyn on 93 3rd Ave. at Bergen St. on Friday, Aug. 5. NMASS is a workers membership organization that was founded by young working people in 1996 in New York City. Its' members cross all trades and industries but are united in their efforts to empower workers and fight for better work conditions.

—ULA KURAS



nat'l briefs

SECOND HOTTEST JULY ON RECORD IN U.S.

New Yorkers overheated with the rest of the continental U.S. last month, according to data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. More than 2,300 daily temperature records were set in the heat wave that scorched the nation in the second-hottest July on record, next to 1936. The first seven months of 2006 were also the warmest January-July since record-keeping began in 1895. New York State's electricity demands broke previous records, topping more than 33,000 megawatts in a day.

FIGHTING FOR THE TREES

Forest defenders blockaded a road in the Siskiyou National Forest in southern Oregon Aug. 8 in an attempt to stall logging of the first inventoried roadless area since the Roadless Area Conservation rule was issued in 2001. One activist was arrested while attaching himself to a large log that blocked the access road to the Mike's Gulch Timber Sale. The blockade happened a day after 11 demonstrators were arrested for blocking traffic in front of a federal forest service office. The Roadless Rule aimed to protect 60 million acres of wild public lands from logging and mining. More than 100 people have been arrested over the last decade while engaged in nonviolent civil disobedience to protect forests in the Pacific Northwest.



Joan Norman, 72, sits in front of the Green Bridge, leading into the Siskiyou National Forest. She was arrested shortly after this photo was taken. PHOTO: COUNTERPUNCH.ORG

HIGH SCHOOL GAY-STRAIGHT CLUB WINS ANTI-DISCRIMINATION FIGHT

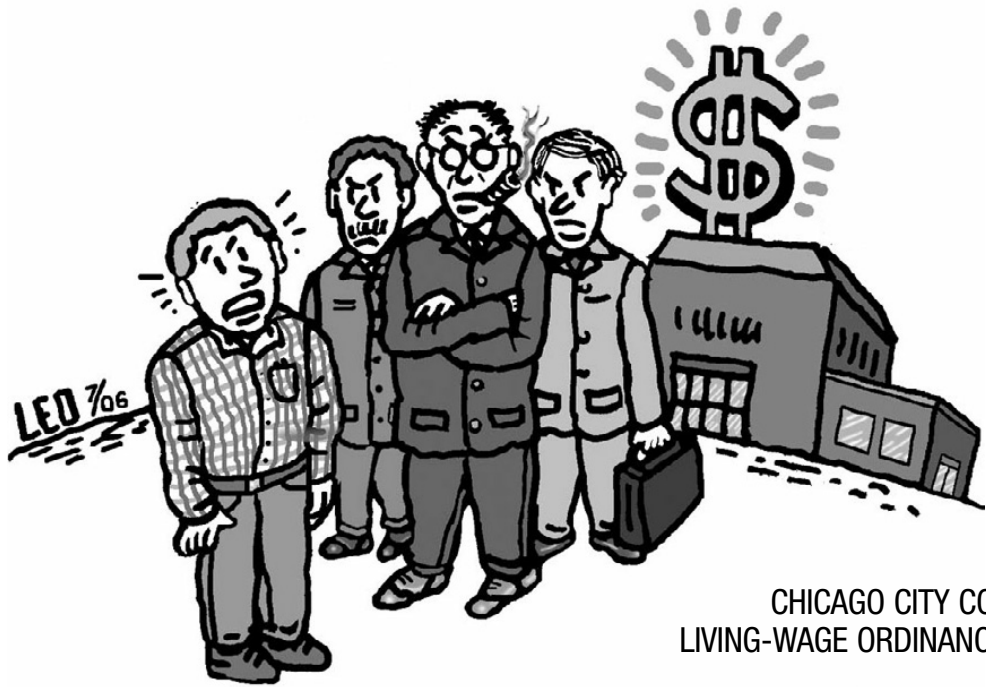
Georgia high school students claimed a victory Aug. 4 when a federal judge ruled that the school must allow students involved in a gay-straight alliance club to hold meetings on campus, reported *The New Standard*. White County High School officials in Cleveland, Georgia, attempted to silence the club, PRIDE, by shutting down all on-campus extracurricular activities. Students say the club was created to provide a safe space to educate peers about sexuality and gender. The courts' decision is consistent with other recent cases that found against school administrations that have attempted to "squench gay-straight alliance clubs."

NINE UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS DIE IN ARIZONA CAR CRASH

A suspected smuggler transporting 22 undocumented migrants rolled an SUV near Yuma, Arizona, killing nine of the travelers and injuring all the other passengers on Aug. 7. The vehicle reportedly attempted to evade U.S. Border Patrol agents and a spike strip set out across the road. Six of the nine individuals killed were women. No More Deaths, a humanitarian aid organization, reports 124 migrant deaths in Arizona since Oct. 1, 2005. More than 4,000 migrants have died along the U.S.-Mexico border in the last 10 years.

INDIAN STATES BAN COCA-COLA AND PEPSI

Coca-Cola and PepsiCo, Inc. faced public outrage in India after the Centre for Science and Environment reported Aug. 2 that it had found "dangerous levels of pesticides in all samples of soft drinks tested." As a result, partial or complete bans on selling and producing the soda beverages were enacted in several states in India. Both companies contested the results, stating that the standard pesticide testing practices were developed to test water, not carbonated drinks. The firms have six weeks to reveal the ingredients of their products to India's Supreme Court.



CHICAGO CITY COUNCIL PASSES HISTORIC BIG-BOX LIVING-WAGE ORDINANCE, BUSINESS GROUPS IN UPROAR.

Chicago Workers Get Raise

BY CHRIS GEOVANIS
CHICAGO INDEPENDENT MEDIA CENTER

On July 26, the Chicago City Council broke ranks with both Mayor Richard Daley and powerful business groups to pass an ordinance that mandates higher pay and benefits for workers at Big Box stores.

Chicago ACORN led a coalition of labor unions, grassroots community groups and advocacy projects over many months that pushed aldermen to back the legislation – an organizing effort that came in the wake of an unsuccessful bid by many of these same groups to block permission for Wal-Mart to build a store inside Chicago city limits. The end result was a groundswell of public pressure on local elected officials to support the Big Box ordinance, and a threat from supporters to challenge elected officials in elections next year if they opposed the ordinance.

"This legislative initiative is crucial for maintaining decent standards for wages and benefits in the city," said Marrienne McMullen of SEIU's Illinois Council. "Big box retailers like Wal-Mart set standards for wages throughout the city, and Chicago needs to make a clear statement that working people won't get exploited."

Chicago first passed a living wage ordinance eight years ago, and four years later indexed the living wage rate to the cost of living. But that ordinance affects only a limited number of people who work for city contractors. The Big Box ordinance is designed to expand those benefits to a much broader group of workers: those who work for stores of at least 90,000 square feet and whose com-

panies make least \$1 billion in annual sales. Roughly 40 stores in Chicago are expected to be impacted by the ordinance, including Target, Sears, Home Depot and Macy's.

The ordinance mandates a minimum wage of \$9.25 an hour plus \$1.50 an hour in benefits starting on July 1 of next year, to be followed by a series of increases that top out at \$10 per hour in wages and \$3 an hour in benefits by 2010.

Mayor Daley has ratcheted up his public opposition to the ordinance, most recently charging that the legislation will cause a spike in property taxes. Daley has until Sept. 13 to decide if he will veto the bill, a move that would mark his first veto in more than 15 years as mayor. And while the ordinance passed by a veto-proof majority, the business lobby, historically cozy with Daley, has aggressively lobbied for a veto. Groups that include the Illinois Retail Merchants Association have also threatened to sue to prevent the ordinance's enforcement.

But supporters of the ordinance, which was written with assistance from the Brennan Center for Justice at the NYU School of Law, believe it can past constitutional and legal muster. More importantly, they scoff at charges from the business lobby that the ordinance will hurt job growth and the economy.

"If you look at the facts, and not just the business community's untruths, you find that these sorts of ordinances can, in fact, have a very positive economic impact," said Chicago Alderman Joe Moore, the principle sponsor of the ordinance. "Studies show that states with higher minimum wages have greater job growth, greater retail sales and greater economic growth than what we see at the federal level. Why? Because when

working-class people get a few extra dollars they spend it in the local economy on goods and services that help the economy grow."

Moore points to studies on living wage ordinances in San Francisco and Santa Fe, New Mexico, which show no adverse economic impact from the laws to the local economy. In Santa Fe, job growth actually increased at a rate greater than the statewide New Mexico average, and the increase in retail sales exceeded that of inflation.

Business opposition is as much about ideology as practical impact, says McMullen.

"All of these businesses and lobbying groups with no dog in this fight have piled on to fight this bill," she said. "Why? Because whenever they see business regulated, in any way, whether its fiscal impact is huge or insignificant, they freak out, because ideologically they oppose any regulation of capital in any way."

But McMullen also says the groups that organized to push for the ordinance have built a solid alliance that will only grow stronger – and that transcends the split that took place in the AFL-CIO last year after the SEIU and other unions broke away to form the Change To Win coalition.

"When you have a national administration that is this hostile to labor, taking up labor issues on the state and municipal level is more important than ever," she says. "What we do on the municipal level can set standards for other cities, and battling exploitive employers in every venue we can is crucial when confronting anti-worker shops like Wal-Mart. In many ways, the national labor split has increased our local sense of urgency to support organizing drives and work together more intensely on shared issues."

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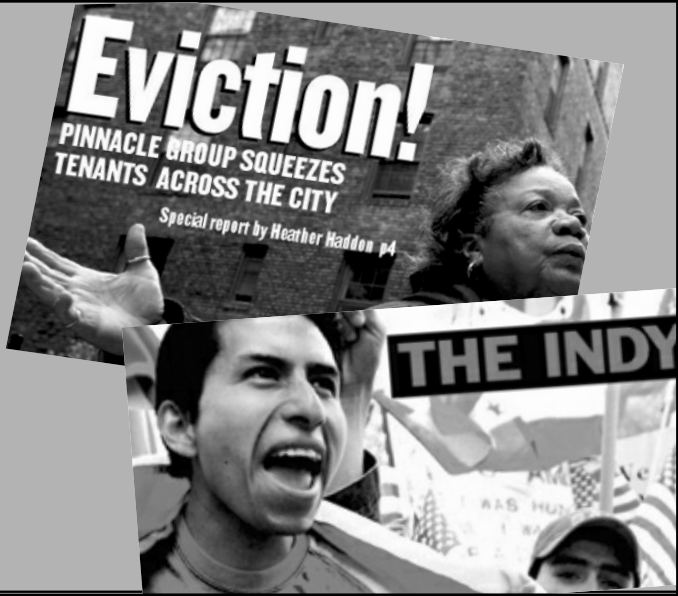
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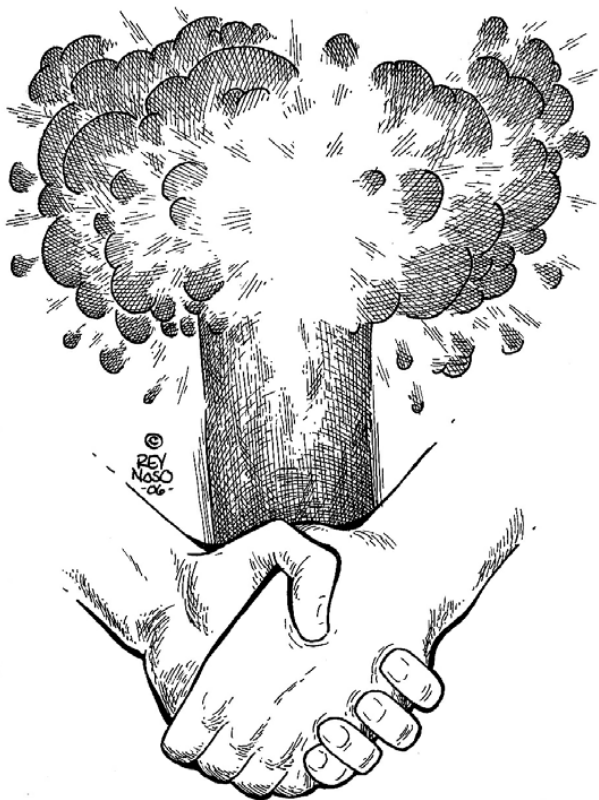
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Complacency Bleeds Red in the Middle East

BY DONALD PANETH

The red flares of destruction and death are rising across the Middle East. The United States is now engaged directly in fighting on two war fronts (in Iraq and Afghanistan) and by proxy in two more (in Lebanon and Gaza). And the worst is yet to come. But the sounds and scenes of war on the nightly TV news are eliciting no sense of concern from the American people. Where they aren't enthusiastically supporting the onslaught, they are complacent, indifferent, passive before the spectacle of war and suffering. They defend their ignorance, their failure to recognize the regional threats implicit in the policies of the Bush administration. The U.S. is mired in Iraq, and seeking to extricate itself not by withdrawing troops but by expanding the conflict, now into Lebanon and later into Syria and Iran. The administration must follow such a course or acknowledge that its quest to dominate the Middle East is doomed.

Israel is ensnared in U.S. policy. For decades, the U.S. has used Israel as a spearhead in the region. Israel has complied, dependent on more than \$3 billion per year in American aid and arms. The Israelis have been very seriously misled, believing that their safety could be secured by allying themselves with the U.S. while ignoring and repressing their Arab neighbors. For decades, the U.S. has had no interest in peace in the Middle East. Violence and chaos serves its purposes. It will never permit the establishment of a viable Palestinian state, which might provide a solution to the Arab-Israeli dilemma. It will never relinquish its pursuit of the vast oil reserves in the region. Actions and reactions continue. Hezbollah miscalculates, seizing two Israeli soldiers, and is surprised by the force of Israel's response. Israel bombs Beirut, and destroys Lebanon's infrastructure but encounters fierce resistance by Hezbollah that exceeds its expectations. Hezbollah rockets pound northern Israel. As in the past, the Israeli army also drives into Gaza. Casualties are inflicted, homes destroyed. Media coverage is minimal. U.S. policymakers observe, calculating their next move.

U.S. PEACE MOVEMENT HOBBOLED BY PRO-ISRAEL BIAS

BY SHARON SMITH

Israel's slaughter of Palestinian and Lebanese civilians should be a moment of truth for the U.S. left. The Bush administration's rush shipment of precision bombs to aid Israel's onslaught should be a wake-up call for those who purport to follow antiwar principles, yet until now, have failed to take a clear stand against Israel's role in the "War on Terror." The U.S. wars on Afghanistan and Iraq were meant as mere stepping stones in a strategic plan aimed at establishing U.S. - and Israeli - dominance over the entire Middle East. With the U.S. occupation of Iraq rapidly spinning out of control into civil war, Israel is providing an alternate route toward achieving those shared goals. As the *Washington Post* argued on July 16, "For the United States, the broader goal is to strangle the axis of Hezbollah, Hamas, Syria and Iran, which the Bush administration believes is pooling resources to change the strategic playing field in the Middle East," U.S. officials say. Realizing this goal requires crushing Arab organizations fighting for self-determination in Gaza and Lebanon. Acknowledging this simple fact, however, also requires finally admitting the crucial role played by Israel as the United States' historic regional partner in enforcing its Middle East policy. The Arab leaders of Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Jordan, despite their subservience to U.S. imperialism, remain despotic leaders who could easily meet the same fate as Iran's Shah in 1979. Israel remains the United States' only "reliable" imperial partner. Yet United for Peace and Justice (UFPJ), the largest national antiwar coalition, argued in a July 18 "action alert," "We condemn Hezbollah's attacks on Israeli civilians, and we condemn the Israeli assault in Gaza and Lebanon." The statement repeated the mainstream media's depiction of Israel's assault as a response to Hezbollah's seizure of Israeli soldiers and firing rockets into Israel, which UFPJ called "irresponsible acts." Echoing liberal commentators, UFPJ criticized Israel for its "disproportionate" response - as if Hezbollah started the conflict and Israel is

guilty only of over-reacting. This latest episode merely provided Israel with the excuse for a major assault on Lebanon. Israel's claim that it is attacking Lebanon to get its soldiers back belies the fact that Hezbollah has repeatedly offered to exchange the two Israeli soldiers for Lebanese and Palestinian political prisoners held by Israel, but Israel has refused. In reality, Israel has had a plan in place for well over a year to take advantage of any opportunity that presented itself to launch a military attack on Lebanon, according to the July 21 *San Francisco Chronicle*. Gerald Steinberg, professor of political science at Bar-Ilan University, told the *Chronicle*, "In a sense, the preparation began in May 2000, immediately after the Israeli withdrawal. By 2004, the military campaign scheduled to last about three weeks that we're seeing now had already been blocked out and, in the last year or two, it's been simulated and rehearsed across the board." Democrats have been vocal cheerleaders for Israel, taking turns with Republicans at pro-Israel rallies across the country. At one rally, Sen.

Hillary Clinton condemned the "unwarranted, unprovoked attacks from Hamas, Hezbollah and their state sponsors" and called them "the new totalitarians of the 21st century." These accusations are absurd. Palestinians democratically elected the resistance movement Hamas to lead their government earlier this year. Israel invaded and occupied southern Lebanon in 1982, the last of its troops pulling out only in 2000. Hezbollah gained its legitimacy as a resistance movement by finally driving Israel out of Lebanon, after 18 years of occupation. The violence of an occupying force cannot be equated with the resistance of an occupied population, as if both sides are equally responsible for the bloodshed. There is no symmetry in this conflict, and to pretend so is to obscure and distort what is really taking place in Lebanon and Gaza today. This attack on Lebanon is an extension of the U.S. war on Iraq. It is therefore astonishing that the dominant organizations of the U.S. antiwar movement are acting as though this is a sideshow, "even-handedly" condemning both sides.

REVIVING THE ANTIWAR MOVEMENT Israel's own barbarism has forced its role as attack dog for U.S. imperialism to the front and center of the antiwar movement. Within the last few weeks, thousands have protested Israel's war on Lebanon and Palestine in Dearborn, MI, Boston, Chicago, and New York City. In each case, the demonstrators were predominantly Arabs and Muslims. Moreover, the connection between the U.S. war on Iraq and Israel's war on Lebanon and Palestine were repeatedly made clear - at the Chicago protest for example, with chants such as "Free, free Palestine; free, free Lebanon; free, free Iraq;" and "Occupation is a crime, from Iraq to Palestine!" For these directly affected immigrant communities, no hand-wringing debate is needed to support genuine resistance against U.S. or Israeli war and occupation, as there is in the mainstream peace movement.

The weakness of the U.S. antiwar movement toward Israeli war crimes is a long-standing and shameful phenomenon. As journalist Laura Flanders observed in 2002, "On June 12, 1982, American activists massed in New York City to call for peace and nuclear disarmament. But the Central Park rally made no mention of the week's own bombing - Israel's then defense minister, Ariel Sharon, had just sent Israeli forces into Lebanon two days earlier." "But while we rallied, U.S. jets flown by Israeli pilots dropped bombs on Palestinian refugees and men, women and children in Lebanon... A message sent then might have saved a generation of Palestinians and Israelis from 20 years of occupation, fury and fear." The stakes are even higher now, as the United States has made the Middle East the testing ground for its global domination. There are principles and thousands of civilian lives at stake again, today.

Sharon Smith is the author of *Women and Socialism and Subterranean Fire: a History of Working-Class Radicalism in the United States*. This article was excerpted from *counterpunch.org*.



Sen. Hillary Clinton appears at a pro-Israel rally held outside the Israeli mission to the United Nations. PHOTO: FREDASKEW.COM

FROM MATTHEW TO MEL GIBSON

A Short History of anti-Semitism

All the people answered, "Let his blood be on us and on our children!"

—Matthew 27:2 4-25

For thousands of years, from the Book of Matthew to the ranting of Mel Gibson, anti-Semitism has flourished as a twisted subtext to European "civilization." Often an attempt to blame a small demographic group for larger disasters and oppressions, European anti-Semitism led directly to the Holocaust of World War Two. The following is a brief history of anti-Semitism, from biblical times to the present day.

52 A.D. The apostle Paul writes, in a letter to the Thessalonians, "the Jews...killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets and also drove us out. ...The wrath of God has come upon them at last." (Thess 2:14-16).

132 Hadrian replaces the Temple of Jerusalem with a temple to Jupiter. Judea is taken off record and replaced with Palestine.

320 (approx) Constantine I outlaws the conversion of Christians to Judaism and the circumcision of slaves.

418 In the first record of a Jew having to decide between conversion and banishment, the Bishop of Minorca, Severus, forced over 500 Jews to convert to Christianity after capturing the island.

1096 The First Crusade results in the deaths of over 5,000 Jews.

1179 The Third Lateran Council, Canon 26, forbids Jews to bear witness against Christians in court.

1348 European Jews are accused of causing the Black Death by poisoning the wells. Over 350 separate massacres ensue; 150 Jewish communities are exterminated.

1492 Ferdinand and Isabella give Spanish Jews the choice between conversion and emigration. Half of Spain's Jews leave the country. Trials of suspected Jews continue until 1818.

1543 Martin Luther publishes a pamphlet, *On The Jews and Their Lies*, proposing to get rid of Jews either by conversion or banishment.

1648-49 Bohdan Khmelnytsky leads Ukrainian Cossacks in the slaughter of over 100,000 Jews (estimated).

1762 Rhode Island, newly established as a bastion of tolerance, refuses to grant citizenship to two Jewish men because only Christians "can be admitted free to this colony."

1791 Catherine the Great establishes Pale of Settlement for Russian Jews, after her predecessors' attempts to remove Jews from Russia fail. At its heyday the Pale contains 5 million Jews. The Pale officially goes out of existence in 1917.

1903 *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, an anti-Semitic forgery, are first printed in Russia as an attempt to discredit the anti-Tsarist revolutionary movement. The *Protocols* are later embraced and reprinted by Henry Ford.

1915 With the start of World War I, 250,000 Jews are banished from Russia.

1922 Harvard, Yale and Princeton Universities start requiring personal interviews from applicants because too many Jews are entering under the merit-based system.

1938 Jews attempting to flee Nazi Germany are refused everywhere, except the Dominican Republic and Poland.

1939-1945 Nazi Holocaust results in the torture and murder of 6 million Jews, including 1.5 million children.

2005-20 Twenty members of the Russian State Duma propose banning Jewish organizations from Russia as extremists. They later retract their demand.

—ALLISON DORIAN, IRINA IVANOVA AND CHRIS ANDERSON.

FIRST PERSON

BY CHLOE TRIBICH

I visited my maternal grandfather's grave for the first time in 1999 while studying abroad in Jerusalem.

He was German and had arrived in New York in the 1920s with my Polish grandmother. Many of their family and friends were eventually killed in the Nazi Holocaust, and the apartment I grew up in was furnished with an armoire shipped from Europe by relatives who, at the last minute, were prevented from leaving. My grandfather immigrated to Israel before he died; his last wish was to be buried in the soil of the Jewish homeland.

At the grave, I stumbled through the mourner's Kaddish with cousins whom I had only just met, waiting for a moment of connection — a sensation of coming home, of connection to a family and heritage from which I had been estranged. This moment as I had imagined it did not come. Instead, the experience marked the beginning of a political transformation.

DISCOVERING ISRAELI APARTHEID

I grew up in a secular, socially progressive household. My father and his parents identified closely with Judaism, but for reasons that had little to do with organized religious practice or Zionism. Rather, they identified suffering of any sort — especially their own — as a distinctly Jewish experience, and attributed their superstition about provoking bad luck to their old-world Jewish background. It was only when my stepmother initiated our membership in a liberal reform synagogue that I became actively curious about Jewish history, religious practice, and the modern state of Israel. This was an interest that I pursued through college.

As I traveled throughout Israel — that is, on the inside of the 1948 green line — I was struck how the Israeli government's racist policies, such as the systemic denial of state resources to communities of Palestinians with Israeli citizenship, infected even the most routine activities. It was small incidents that made clear the consequences of this unjust system. Getting kicked out of a store while shopping with a dark-skinned friend and hearing the Hebrew University program director discuss the importance of avoiding Arab neighborhoods in his orientation speech shattered the notion that Israel was a safe haven, even for the people to whom I felt closest — like my friend who was ejected from the jewelry store.

One of the most memorable moments was my cousin's pained description of her husband's military service in Gaza. The husband chose to go after much internal wrangling. But his service was ultimately a good thing, my cousin justified, because unlike

many of the soldiers, he was compassionate, allowing pregnant women to pass quickly through checkpoints. In light of the racism I had witnessed, her reasoning was horribly distressing — even more so because I respected her political involvement with anti-occupation movements like Women in Black and liked her personally. I vowed at that moment never to sacrifice basic logic to quell discomfort over my own privilege.

A year later, in 2000, the current Intifada erupted. I joined a group of Jewish activists in New York to form Jews Against the Occupation (JATO) to work in solidarity with politically like-minded organizations. We understood "solidarity" to mean that we would take the lead from our Palestinian allies in defining the terms of a movement that would lead to justice for the people of the region. My cousin's explanation of her husband's military service underscored the need for the oppressed to shape the struggle — after all, the vast majority of Palestinians were demanding an end to the occupation, not a more compassionate occupying army.

JUDAISM YES, ZIONISM NO

JATO adopted the Palestinian Refugees' Right of Return as a demand after it was highlighted by the Palestinian movement in the U.S. This was not an easy decision. We debated the extent to which this would compromise our relationship with liberal Jews who might otherwise be sympathetic, and how important this constituency would be to the broader struggle. To this day I believe JATO has survived because it has prioritized moral clarity over assuming the burden of broad Jewish representation.

After five years, this work remains intensely challenging. The conflation of Anti-Semitism with Anti-Zionism can make the most tentative opposition to Israeli state violence intensely controversial. One of my favorite activist moments was chanting "Judaism, yes; Zionism, no" alongside Jews, Arabs, Palestinians and other allies at an Israel Day Parade counter-demonstration. This was our only chant that drew surprised expressions instead of angry retorts from the marchers and spectators. By reaffirming Jewish identity as separate from the Israeli state we were able to crack — if only for a moment — a central assumption of Zionism.

Nevertheless, responding to challenges to one's Jewish authenticity remains difficult. I will never forget the time a college classmate asked if I really considered myself Jewish after I said that we could never be truly safe living in a state premised upon Jewish privilege. I empathize with the feelings of people like my grandfather, who supported a Jewish state after witnessing the Holocaust. However, I do not think that Zionism — like any social system that depends on enforcing unequal classes of human beings — provides us with genuine security.



Chloe Tribich, of Jews Against the Occupation (JATO)
PHOTO: JESSIE CARPENTER

By security, I mean not only freedom from violence, but the guarantee of health care, housing, meaningful work, education, and the space for creativity and possibility that makes life pleasurable and unique.

I do my political work because, and not despite, of my concern for the safety and wellbeing of those that I love — family, friends and partners in struggle. The horrific violence of recent weeks proved to me more vividly than ever that the Israeli government's interests are distinct from even those of its own Jewish citizens, let alone the direct victims of its violence. The massacres of Lebanese and Palestinian civilians and continued destruction of

Palestinian homes and livelihoods constitutes a moral crime of gargantuan proportions. The invasions have done nothing to advance the Israeli government's purported goal of eliminating support for anti-Israel militias; it certainly does not make Jews, Israelis or U.S. citizens safer.

The summer I traveled in Israel, inching towards my current politics, I abandoned the possibility of an uncomplicated connection with a Jewish homeland. But in turn I found a new one, based not in geography but in struggle, and premised on a shared vision of a just future and a commitment to get there.

HEIFERS FOR CHRIST

BY IRINA IVANOVA

Based on recent events in the Middle East, one could be excused for believing the world as we know it is ending. The last few years, however, have seen a proliferation of groups who not only think that Armageddon is coming, but are actively working to hasten its arrival.

The movement, generalized under the moniker "Christian Zionists," is made up of many groups, that have somewhat divergent aims. But they all have one thing in common: they are Christians for Israel. For all these groups, the existence of a Jewish state is an essential prerequisite for Christ's second coming.

The most prominent figure of the movement is John Hagee, who leads an 18,000-member evangelical church based out of Texas and can be seen twice daily on over 92 million TV sets. Hagee has given \$8.5 million to help Soviet Jews move to Israel, and is largely responsible for the growing support for Zionism among Christian evangelicals.

"In Christian theology, the first thing that happens when Christ returns to Earth is the judgment of nations... It will have one criterion: How did you treat the Jewish people? Anyone who understands that will want to be on the right side of that question," Hagee says.

Then there's Clyde Lott, a Mississippi preacher who has devoted himself to raising a few red heifers to send to rabbis in Israel. The sacrifice of these cows would enable the building of the Third Temple. He cites an obscure passage in the Book of Numbers that requires a perfect red heifer that has never been yoked to be sacrificed and its ashes used to purify those who wish to pray in the temple. Four years ago, he succeeded in breeding a red cow declared acceptable by rabbis (that is, having less than six black or white hairs). Speculation abounded whether this would be the cow to bring on end times. His plans were sidetracked, however, as international regulations about shipping animals overseas prevented him from sending the heifer or any others to Israel — for the time being. But he persists, "If there's a sovereign God with his hand in the affairs of men, it'll happen, and it'll be a pivotal

event," he told AlterNet. "That time is soon."

And he's not alone. According to various polls, an estimated 40 percent of Americans believe that events to bring about the end of the world are under way.

Hagee founded Christians United for Israel (CUFI) in February of this year, which he intends to be the Christian version of the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee. CUFI's Board of Directors includes conservative luminaries such as the Reverend Jerry Falwell, and their annual night to honor Israel has drawn leading Republicans including former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, who was the keynote speaker in 2002. In his latest book, the best-selling *Jerusalem Countdown*, Hagee argues that the United States and Israel must strike preemptively against Iran, as a prerequisite to bring on Armageddon and the Second Coming of Christ. This, he says, is all part of God's plan for the West.

What is less spoken about is the aftermath of Jesus' coming. While some fundamentalist Christians refer to Bible passages that say gentiles and Jews will stand as one when the end comes, the more widespread belief among Christian Zionists is that the Jewish people will need to accept Jesus as their savior upon his return. The alternative is to be cast into Hell, along with all the other nonbelievers.

This hunger for the apocalypse has sparked some disagreement in the Jewish community over the recent outpouring of support for Israel among Christian evangelical groups. Some have praised Hagee for his unwavering devotion to the Jewish people. Others, such as Rabbi Brad Hirschfield, vice president of the National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership in New York, have called him "quite dangerous."

Hagee doesn't fear the end, however, but rather God's wrath for standing by as Iran completes its alleged plan to destroy Israel. Nuclear war between America and Iran, he says, will lead to the renewal of the Garden of Eden. "The righteous are going to rule the nations of the Earth," he says. "It's going to become a Garden of Eden, and Christ is going to rule it."



500 New Yorkers marched across the Brooklyn Bridge on July 29, 2006 protesting Israeli attacks on Lebanon and Gaza. PHOTOS: ONTO

A Brief History of Zionism

BY A.K. GUPTA

Like the United States, South Africa and Australia, Israel is a classic settler state. Its foundational ideology is Zionism, which developed as both a secular political movement and ideology in the late 19th Century to create either a "national homeland" for Jews or a "Jewish state."

Russian Jews began arriving in the 1870s, often in response to anti-Semitism and pogroms in their homeland. The first Zionist Congress was organized in 1897 by Theodor Herzl, considered the father of Zionism, in Basel, Switzerland.

From the beginning, Zionism both sought an imperial sponsor and defined Arabs as savages. Herzl wrote in *The Jewish State*, that the Zionist movement could serve the interests of the Ottoman Empire in Palestine and "form an outpost of civilization as opposed to barbarism."

Emigration remained limited for decades, however. There were perhaps 20,000-25,000 Jews in Palestine in 1890, growing to only 56,000 by 1917, a pivotal year in Middle East history. For years, many Zionists had been seeking favor from the British Empire, which obliged with the "Balfour Declaration" on Nov. 2, 1917. It put England on record to use its "best endeavors" to facilitate "the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish People." British troops arrived shortly thereafter in Palestine, and England carved up the Middle East with France.

The interwar period saw a huge rise in Jewish emigration along with the development of the two major schools of Zionism: Labor and Revisionist. Both variants are exclusionist. According to Ralph Schoenman, author of *The Hidden History of Zionism*, one influential Labor Zionist "wanted every tree and every bush to be planted by Jewish 'pioneers,'" and demanded that European plantation managers in Palestine "hire Jews and only Jews." Boycotts were organized against "any Jewish enterprise which failed to employ Jews exclusively." Labor Zionism saw itself as a socialist movement that would "redeem" the land through agricultural labor.

Vladimir Jabotinsky, the founder of Revisionist Zionism, criticized Labor Zionists for hiding the real agenda — a Jewish state — and for thinking that the Arabs loved their land less than the Jews. He recognized the fundamental humanity of the Palestinians, who "look upon Palestine with the same instinctive love and true favor the Aztecs looked upon Mexico or any Sioux looked upon his prairie." But as a colonialist, he argued that Arab patriotism "can not be bought, it can only be curbed." In a famous essay published in 1923, he called for an "Iron Wall" that will destroy even "a gleam of hope that they will succeed in getting rid of us."

During the interwar period, Jewish ownership of land grew dramatically. The land was owned by the Jewish National Fund, and reserved exclusively for the use of Jews. To this day, 93 percent of Israel's lands is reserved for Jews through what one critic describes as "procedural and bureaucratic measures."

The notion of "transfer" is central to Zionism. One, the transfer of Jews to Israel and two, the transfer of Palestinians out of their native lands. Even before the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, Jewish forces had expelled at least 200,000 Palestinians. By the time the war was over, at least 700,000 Palestinians had been forced off their lands. Perhaps another 200,000 were cleansed during the 1967 war.

Israel is expansionist from its roots. Prior to the 1948 war, its leaders planned to seize most of the rest of Palestine not allotted to it by the United Nations, increasing its landmass from 53 percent to 78 percent. Of course since then, Israel has invaded and occupied for years all of Palestinian and parts of Egypt, Syria and Lebanon. Many modern Zionists still have ambitions of the biblical "Eretz Israel" that stretches from the Nile to the Euphrates River, meaning all of Palestine, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, most of Iraq and huge swaths of Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

Ultimately, Zionism is in the same family as manifest destiny and apartheid. It seeks to exterminate the native people's history, culture and presence from the land. While Israel can't use outright genocide as America did during the "Indian Wars," its repressive methods rivals apartheid. And just like its cousins, Israel's sense of self is fueled by endless wars in which it is the eternal victim seeking to only defend itself as it expands its empire.

World briefs

LEBANON OIL SPILL CRISIS

An oil spill along Lebanon's Mediterranean coast continues to spread as an Israeli naval blockade prevents clean-up crews from accessing the area. Israeli bombing of the Jiyeh power plant located 20 miles south of Beirut, which took place between July 13 and 15, caused at least 4.6 million gallons of oil to seep into the ocean. Satellite images show that the spill now covers 1,200 square miles, coating more than two-thirds of Lebanon's 140-mile long coast, and is now threatening Syria, Turkey and Greece. Coastal marine life, including an endangered species of sea turtle, is threatened. The clean-up costs are estimated at \$50-250 million.

HUNDREDS OF WOMEN TAKE OVER OAXACA BROADCASTER

Hundreds of women have peacefully occupied the studios of Oaxaca's Television and Radio Corporation since early August as part of a larger campaign demanding the resignation of state Gov. Ulises Ruiz Ortiz. The corporation operates one TV and two radio stations. Thousands of women belonging to the Popular Assembly of the People of Oaxaca participated in the Aug. 1 demonstration through Oaxaca City as a response to a violent police attack on striking teachers on June 14. The women have broadcast both communiques demanding that Ruiz Ortiz resign and unedited footage of police violence, which had been previously censored by the TV station. The teachers' strike, which began May 22, was called to protest the increasing privatization of education and to demand a wage increase. More than 70,000 teachers are participating.

PINOCHET-LINKED COMPANY PLANS PATAGONIA DAMS



Environmentalists, ranchers and fishermen have teamed up to fight new hydroelectric dams planned on rivers in southern Chile, a landscape scattered with national parks and reserves. The proposed project by the Spanish-owned electricity company Endesa includes six dams that would cost \$4 billion. Many stress that the 1,000-plus miles of power lines connecting the dams to central Chile would damage the region's tourism industry. Endesa is also being blamed for a flood several weeks ago that killed 25 people and flooded towns, roads and farms when floodgates from a dam it manages were opened after a large rain storm. Former Chilean dictator Gen. Augusto Pinochet privatized Endesa, once a state-owned power company, in the late 1980s and awarded the company 95 percent "non-consumptive" water rights of Patagonia's major rivers, a region that holds some of the largest freshwater reserves in the world.

ANTIWAR DIRECT ACTION AGAINST U.S. PLANES AND SHIPS

Seven antiwar protesters of the Trident Ploughshares group were arrested on Aug. 7 after they snuck into a Scottish airport to conduct a "citizen search" for U.S.-manufactured weapons being sent to Israel. In related news, five individuals were acquitted in Ireland July 25 after admitting to damaging a U.S. Navy cargo plane with hammers and an ax in 2003. The group had been charged with "causing damage without lawful excuse," but argued that their actions could have saved lives in Iraq.

ISRAEL: Modern-Day Sparta

Israel is a modern-day Sparta. With a population of only 6.3 million, it can mobilize an army of up to 625,000 in 72 hours. Israel's military is one of the best equipped and best trained in the world. Numerical comparisons to Arab nations are misleading as Israel has some of the most advanced battle tanks in the world, the Merkava series, and access to cutting-edge U.S. military technology, including combat aircraft and attack helicopters.

Israel receives \$3 billion a year in U.S. military aid, and it engages in joint military research and development with – and outright spying on – its patron, enabling it to build a world-class military with an annual budget of just \$9 billion. It is one of only eight nations, for instance, to have an active space and satellite program.

According to the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Israel has "sophisticated chemical and biological weapons programs... at the Israel Institute for Biological Research."

Israel is also one of the big players in the nine-nation nuclear club. As of 1997, its arsenal was estimated at more than 400 "deliverable thermonuclear and nuclear weapons," according to *Janes Intelligence Weekly*. And it is thought to have a highly sophisticated nuclear triad, that is, air-, land- and sea-launched bombs. Its rocket technology gives its missiles an estimated range of up to 4,700 miles, meaning Israel could nuke Beijing.

BY THE NUMBERS...

- Population of the U.S.: **300 million**
- Population of Israel: **6.3 million**
- Size of Israeli Army that can be mobilized within 72 hours: **Up to 625,000**
- Size of standing U.S. Army (including 107,000 reservists): **488,944**
- Estimated size of Hezbollah's full-time fighting force: **3,000-6,000**
- Number of main battle tanks in Israeli Army: **3,657**
- Number of main battle tanks in U.S. Army: **7,620+**
- Number of armored personnel carriers in Israeli Army: **10,419+**
- Number of armored personnel carriers in U.S. Army: **16,008**
- Number of armored vehicles of all types possessed by Hezbollah: **0**
- Number of artillery pieces in Israeli Army: **5,432**
- Number of artillery pieces in U.S. Army: **6,530**
- Number of combat-capable aircraft in Israeli Air Force: **402**
- Number of combat-capable aircraft in U.S. Air Force: **1,659**
- Estimated range of Hezbollah's longest-range missile, the Iranian-made Zelzal-2: **125 miles**
- Estimated range of an Israeli Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (based on its two-stage Shavit space rocket): **4,700 miles for a half-ton payload**
- Estimated explosive yield of Israel's nuclear arsenal: **50,000,000 tons**
- Explosive yield of a Zelzal-2: **2/3 of a ton**
- Annual amount Israel receives in U.S. aid: **\$3 billion**
- Estimated annual amount Hezbollah receives in Iranian aid: **\$50 million**
- Population density of Warsaw Ghetto: **110,800 people per sq. km.**
- Population density on average of eight refugee camps in Gaza Strip: **100,000 people per sq. km.**



Twelve Israeli anarchists were arrested Aug. 8 after blockading the entrance to Ramat David Air Force Base in Northern Israel, where fighter planes have been taking off to bombing missions in Lebanon. PHOTO: KAREN MANER



More than 2.4 million people packed Mexico City on July 30 to support presidential hopeful Andrés Manuel López Obrador, who believes he won the hotly contested July 2 election. PHOTO: MITCHEL COHEN

BY JOHN ROSS

Prologue
NO NOS MOVERAN

MEXICO CITY—Tens of thousands of people the color of the earth are encamped in the massive Zocalo square and a series of 47 encampments throughout the city. They have become communities overnight, feeding themselves, holding meetings, passing out leaflets, standing in resistance to this unspeakable fraud upon the people. More are coming from the provinces every day.

Andrés Manuel López Obrador of the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD) insists that he won the July 2 presidential election from National Action Party (PAN) candidate Felipe Calderón to whom the nation’s tarnished electoral authority, the Federal Electoral Institute (IFE), awarded a razor-thin and much questioned “victory.” AMLO, as López Obrador is known, spoke to those gathered in the Zocalo on Aug. 2. The rain poured down as he updated them on what’s to come. Invoking Gandhi, he said, “First they ignore us, then they laugh at us, then they beat us. Then we win.” “No estas solo” (You are not alone), the pueblo roared back.

Act 1
THE MIDDLE CLASS

Jacinto Guzman, an 80-year-old retired oil worker from Veracruz State plants himself in front of the headquarters of the Halliburton corporation along the skyscraper-lined Paseo de Reforma. He recalls the great strikes of the 1930s that culminated in the expropriation and nationalization of Mexico’s petroleum reserves.

Dressed in a wrinkled suit and a hard hat, the old worker laments the creeping privatization of PEMEX, the national oil corporation, by non-Mexican subcontractors like Halliburton, which is installing natural-gas infrastructure in Chiapas. The sign he holds reads “No A Pinche Fraude” (No to Fucking Fraud!) referring to Halliburton’s membership in a business confederation that financed a TV ad campaign against AMLO.

Guzman’s appearance at Halliburton on July 28 was one of myriad acts of civil resistance invoked by AMLO at a July 16 Mexico City “informative assembly” that drew more than a million participants. The campaign is designed to pressure a seven-judge panel (the “TRIFE”), which must determine a winner by the first week in September, into opening up the ballot boxes and counting the votes contained therein “voto por voto” (vote by vote).

Zeroing in on U.S. transnationals that

purportedly backed Calderón, AMLO’s people have invaded Wal-Mart, picketed PepsiCo, Inc., rented rooms in big chain hotels and dropped banners from the windows decrying the “pinche fraude,” and blocking all 11 doors at the palatial headquarters of Banamex, once Mexico’s oldest bank and now a subsidiary of Citigroup. Demonstrators also blocked the doors at the Mexican stock exchange and surrounded the studios of Televisa, the major head of the nation’s two-headed television monopoly, both heads of which shamelessly tilted to Calderón before, during, and after the ballots were cast.

Seated on a tiny folding chair outside of Banamex, Elena Poniatowska, one of Mexico’s most luminous writers and the recent winner of Spain’s Cervantes Prize, reflected on the civil resistance: “We have always seen the workers demonstrate here in the Zocalo but this is all very new for our middle class. The middle class protests too, but in the privacy of their own homes. Now we are out of the closet.”

Act 2
BAD GAS

Hundreds of steaming AMLO supporters pack the cavernous Club de Periodistas in the old quarter of the capital where computer gurus will diagnose the complexities of the fraud AMLO is positive was perpetrated by IFE technicians in early July during both the preliminary count and the actual tally of 130,000 precincts in the nation’s 300 electoral districts.

The experts are as convinced as the audience that the vote was stolen on the IFE terminals but have many theories as to how. They speak of arcane algorithms and corrupted software. Juan Gurria, a computer programmer who has dropped in on his lunch hour to audit the experts, recalled the 1988 election which was stolen from leftist Cuauhtemoc Cardenas by the long-ruling (71 years) PRI in the nation’s first cybernetic computer fraud.

Eighteen years ago, with computer fraud still in its infancy, the PRI had to resort to hitmen to carry out its larceny. Three nights before the election, Cardenas’s closest aide Francisco Xavier Ovando and his assistant Ramon Gil were executed blocks away from the Congress after reportedly obtaining the password to the PRI computer system upon which the results were being cooked in favor of its candidates, the now universally reviled Carlos Salinas de Gortari. So far, Computer Fraud 2006 has been less messy.

The PRD is trying to keep a lid on the bad gas seeping from down below. A few days after July 2, Felipe Calderón, whom AMLO’s

Mexican Civil
Resistance in Five Acts

people have derisively dubbed “Fe-Cal,” came to this same club to receive the adulation of a gaggle of union bosses. When he tried to leave, he was assailed by street venders howling “Voto por Voto!” Calderón was quickly hustled into a bullet-proof SUV by his military escort but the angry crowd kept pounding on the tinted windows.

Act 3
IN DEFENSE OF THE VOTO

Andrés Manuel López Obrador fervently believes he has won the presidency of the United States of Mexico. He says it often on television just to needle rival Calderón. The proof, he is convinced, is inside 130,000 ballot boxes that he wants recounted, voto por voto.

The ballot boxes are now stored in the Federal Electoral Institute’s 300 district offices under the protection of the Mexican Army. Nonetheless, in Veracruz, Tabasco, and Jalisco, among other states, IFE operators have broken into the ballot boxes under the pretext of recovering lost electoral documentation. AMLO is suspicious that the officials are monkeying with the ballots, adding and subtracting the number of votes to make them conform to the IFE’s incredible computer count. Hundreds of ballot boxes contain more votes than voters on the registration lists and more ballots have been judged null and void than the 243,000-vote margin of Calderón’s as-yet unconfirmed victory.

López Obrador’s Party, the PRD, has submitted documentation of anomalies in 53,000 out of the nation’s 130,000 polling places to the TRIFE, the seven-judge panel that will have the ultimate word as to whether or not the votes are going to be counted one by one.

Act 4
SE BUSCA POR FRAUDE ELECTORAL

The integrity of the Federal Electoral Commission is in the eye of Hurricane AMLO. AMLO accuses the IFE of fixing the election for Calderón and then defending his false victory. The PRD has filed criminal charges against the nine members of the IFE’s ruling council, most prominently its chairman, the gray-faced bureaucrat Luis Carlos Ugalde, for grievous acts of bias against AMLO, including refusing to halt Calderón’s hate spots in the run-up to July 2. The council is composed entirely of PRI and PAN nominees; the PRD is, of course, excluded.

Despite rumors that he had fled the country, Ugalde appeared July 27 at the first IFE meeting since the district tallies three weeks previous. During an acrimonious seven-hour public meeting, a score of protesters eventually pushed their way past the IFE guards at the auditorium’s portals. They chanted “Voto por voto” and carried bouquets of yellow flowers, the color of the AMLO. A PRD deputy tried to hand one to Ugalde who turned away in horror. A bodyguard snatched up the blossoms as if they were a terrorist bomb, and disposed of them post-haste.

Act 5
WE SHALL NOT BE MOVED

The TRIFE must declare a new president by Sept. 5. The seven judges have just begun to dig their way into the slagheap of legal chal-

lenges, the ham-handed bias of the IFE prior to the election and the strange behavior of the Federal Electoral Institute’s computers on election day and thereafter.

López Obrador is obsessed with proving his triumph at the polls and is not going to sit on his hands waiting for the TRIFE to reach its learned conclusions. A gifted leader of street protest, he has summoned his people to the capitol’s Tianamen-sized Zocalo square three times since July 2, drawing 2.4 million on July 30 (police estimates) – the largest political demonstration in the nation’s history.

At the July 30 “informative assembly,” in a driving downpour, López Obrador suggested that all the demonstrators stay where they are in permanent assembly until the TRIFE renders a decision.

Then Gabino Palomares, a troublemaking troubadour who has been up there on the stage at every watershed event in recent Mexican history from the slaughter of striking students at Tlatelolco in 1968 to the Zapatistas’ “March of the Those the Color of the Earth” in 2001, took the mic to lead the mob in that old labor anthem, “We Shall Not Be Moved” and AMLO’s people thundered back in a roar that drowned out the weeping sky, “No Nos Moveran!”

John Ross’s ZAPATISTAS! Making Another World Possible: Chronicles of Resistance 2000-2006 will be published by Nation Books in October. This article was excerpted from counterpunch.org.

GLOSSARY
OF TERMS

PRD- Party of the Democratic Revolution, formed in 1989 when Mexico was still a one-party state. The organization has evolved into a full-fledged political party from its base of hundreds of locally formed committees.

PRI- Party of the Institutional Revolution, called “the perfect dictatorship” by one critic, the PRI governed Mexico from 1929 to 2000. They still control 25 percent of the Mexican Congress and could cut a deal to share power with PAN.

PAN- National Action Party, founded in 1939 by wealthy, conservative Catholics, this once obscure party won the presidency in 2000.

AMLO- The affectionate acronym for Andrés Manuel López Obrador, the popular former mayor of Mexico City and PRD presidential candidate.

FELIPE CALDERÓN- The PAN (National Action Party) candidate, a Harvard-educated technocrat and party functionary since 1987.

IFE- A supposedly independent organization charged with policing federal elections, that voted unanimously to certify the election in favor of Calderón.

TEPJF(Previously TRIFE)- A special court within Mexico’s judiciary that settles disputed elections. On Aug. 5 they ruled that 11,839, or 9 percent of the electoral packets should be opened due to irregularities. A decision the PRD calls “legalistic” and “9% democratic.”

—GABRIEL RIOCABO

Planet Funk

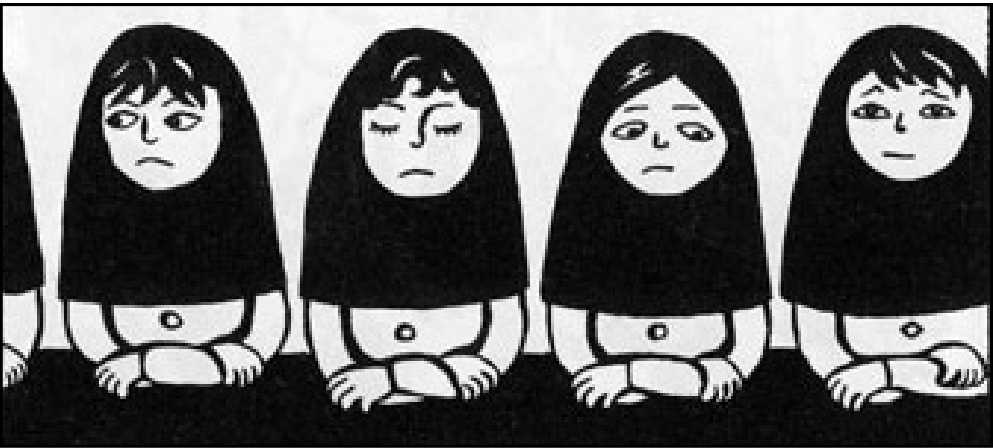
JEREMIAH HOSEA / EARTHDRIVER

Sometime during Shariff Simmons' set last summer, the patrons of the Bowery Ballroom lost all their home training. Sweating and funky, they rose like a tide to the Simmons' righteous lyricism, the dubbing of DJ Oja and the crisp riffs of guitarist Ryan Waters. While the audience caught the spirit, bassist Jeremiah Hosea was a sea of utter calm, laying down a blues bottom that gave shape and definition to the chaos.

Hosea has one of those "I've seen you before" faces. No doubt. Now a veteran of the city's underground music scene, he's gigged with the likes of James Blood Ulmer, Karsh Kale, Peter Prince and Tamar Kali, to name a few. Not a slaphappy bassist, Hosea plays in the harmonic mode that is multi-dimensional, allowing his fellow musicians to go in any direction, whether it's hip-hop, blues, or soul. But underneath the sound is an utter tenderness, a deep well of humanity that reshapes the listening experience.

Hosea's career began at the early age of three – as the youngest patron of Carnegie Hall, where his mother exposed him to classical music. Influenced by the jazz-hip hop fusion of Stetasonic, Hosea stole away uptown to jam with Sacred Circus. Led by composer-singer Olu, Sacred Circus was like a university in great Black music "Olu was the hidden genius of 120th street," Hosea recalls. "We jammed around everything, gospel, soul, R&B, rap, you name it."

It was around this time that



Panel from *Persepolis*, by Marjane Satrapi

DAUGHTER OF THE REVOLUTION

For six-year-old Marji, the rebellious heroine of Marjane Satrapi's brilliant graphic memoir, *Persepolis*, growing up in pre-revolutionary Iran was a study in contradictions: parental support and scientific progress; Islamic Revolution, war, and god. Her coming-of-age journey is plagued by Guardians of the Revolution with the power to arrest girls for wearing "punk shoes" and tight jeans, school-teachers who hand out "keys to paradise" to impressionable young boys during the Iran-Iraq War and hypocritical Mullahs who preach the morality of Islam, yet execute citizens like Marji's uncle for holding dissenting views.

Satrapi, who now lives in Paris, refers to the life in Iran after the Mullahs took over in 1979 as an epidemic of "schizophrenia": obe-

dience and burqas in broad daylight, political discussions behind closed doors, and wild and drunken dancing at night. These contradictions may seem tough to navigate (as we see in Arab regimes, who are adept at letting in McDonalds but keeping out civil liberties) but even tougher to do without. Satrapi once asked in an interview with *Salon*, "What is the point in living? Just eating and shitting and making money?"

To prevent the Iranian Mullahs and the Bush administration alike from paralyzing us with paranoia, we need to take risks, to really live – a feat that feisty and rebellious Marji pulls off with inspiring ease. The politically conscious preteen sneaks to a protest with her maid, discusses romance with her neighbor, seeks refuge

PERSEPOLIS: THE STORY OF A CHILDHOOD

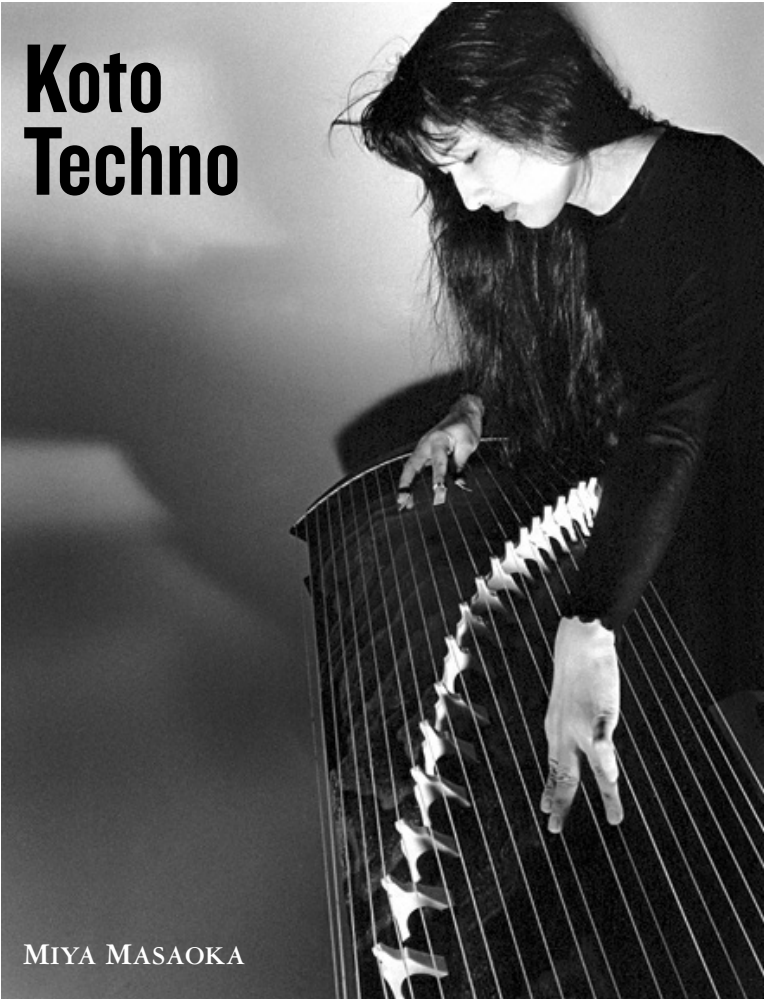
BY MARJANE SATRAPI PANTHEON, 2003

in the family's basement to brood and smoke, and strolls the streets of Tehran in denims, Nike sneakers and a Michael Jackson button, lying her way out of trouble. Satrapi's minimalist, black-and-white comic strips contrast sharply with Marji's free spirit, reminding readers that even a youth's overflowing energy and optimism cannot disguise the harshness of reality.

It is clear that for Satrapi, a society obsessed with safety and security is a society lacking in freedom. Any kind of fear can cripple, whether generated from a vague threat of terrorism, or a very immediate threat of imprisonment or execution. And for as frightening and exotic as seventies and eighties Iran may seem to most Americans, Marji's personal experiences ring with a hint of familiarity. *Persepolis* was crafted with such genuine humanity that the characters seem, well, just like us. Marji and her fellow countrymen may live schizophrenic lives, but that doesn't mean that humanity on a whole is divided into extremes. Iranians aren't all that different from Americans, and average Muslims not so different from average Westerners, despite what politicians and the media might lead us to believe.

We all need family and friends, a sense of humor, and a touch of daredevil spirit to survive. And, for many of the world's citizens, survival means facing the sort of power-hungry rulers that cross all cultural boundaries, the ones that that use selfish interpretations of religion and morality to oppress their people.

—LIANA GREY



wires is attached to Masaoka and a microcomputer. With the help of Studio for Electro Instrumental Music, a team of Dutch technicians, Masaoka mapped out 900 pre-recorded koto samples, added a series of six pedals, and a button switchboard. Technology gives Masaoka the interactive capacity and aggressive quality to create a sound vaster and more vibrant to a bare-boned koto.

Masaoka is at heart a kotoist trained in gagaku music, the ceremonial style of Japanese Imperial Court with roots in Shintoism. Masaoka distilled a potent element of gesture from traditional koto-playing. "Aural gesturalism" is what she calls this physical act of performance. The message of Masaoka's music lies in motions which tamper with the koto's anatomy. Graceful, exaggerated rises of the hand and arm and "limp-wrist" curved fingers create a dance on strings. She will bow, pull, hit, pluck, push and mallet the strings beyond their pitches of normalcy towards a very different, experimental realm. The presentation requires physical exertion, but her motions alone provoke a rapturous calm.

Hybrids of music, technology, and nature are innate to Masaoka's hypnotic sound. "What is the Difference Between Stripping and Playing the Violin?" featured the Masaoka Orchestra, comprised of a string section, jazz and rock players from various styles. The project spawned the birth of Tai Chi conducting, or

continued on next page

Hosea jumped the plank, dropping out of Hunter College to devote himself to music full-time. Still working in the spirit of Sacred Circus, he was one of the architects of a new group, Earthdriver. Taking their name from a Native American myth, Earthdriver's motto is "it's not just a band, but a movement." Blurring performance art and sound, Earthhdriver is a floating collective of musicians, dancers and painters; similar, perhaps, to combining the French situationists with the Fat Albert Gang. True to their DIY aesthetic, they self-released their first album, *No One's Slave*, while performing at various benefits for Mumia Abu Jamal, the Zapatistas and war orphans of Sierra Leone.

Earthdriver members continue to work as a collective, while also performing with mainstream artists such as Sade, Mos Def and John Legend. Hosea's projects curently include Shariff Simmons' *Echo Effect*, a hard-rock spoken-word album; his own solo effort and the long-awaited second Earthdriver album. Hosea sees the disc as a "cultural intervention" against the dangers presented by the commercialization of music. "The spirit we work in is that people, not money, make the world go around."

Earthdriver will perform with Shariff Simmons Aug. 19 at Joe's Pub, 425 Lafayette St, NYC. Check out Jeremiah Hosea at www.myspace.com/earthdriver

—KAZEMBE BALAGUN

Miya Masaoka is cloaked in all-black attire. Two towers that emit twelve laser beams overwhelm her petite size. But it is her magician-like gesturing that captures the audience's attention at McCarren Park in Brooklyn on July 25. Masaoka

provocatively plays an interfaced koto with visceral hand movement that is reminiscent of Tai Chi arm articulation.

The koto is a hollow-bodied, harp-like instrument, simply constructed, deeply resonating. It becomes the monstrosity of an interfaced koto when a labyrinth of

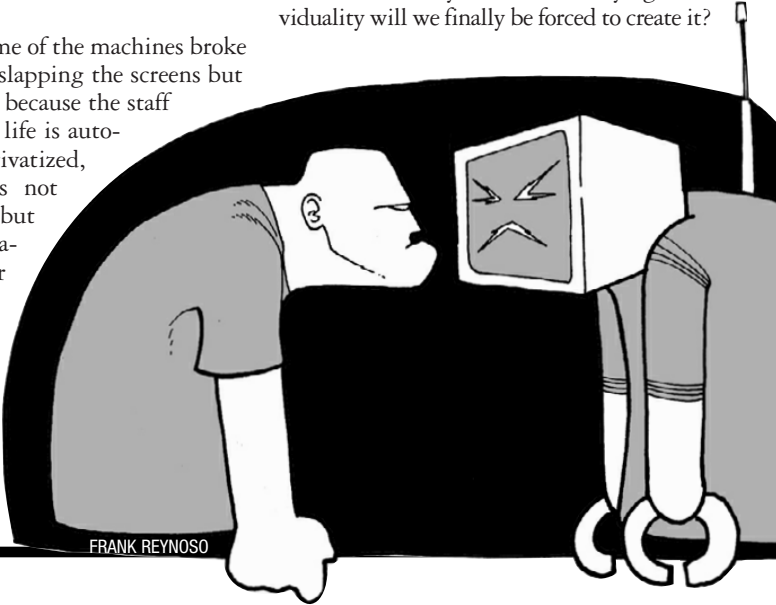
Automatic for the People

BY NICHOLAS POWERS

Is convenience our American birthright? I went to Union Square to see a movie and arrived early to buy a ticket. Instead of going to the counter where people waited patiently in line, I went to the automatic ticket machines where moviegoers cut lines and glared at each other. As we jostled to get our tickets, I wondered: why do we refuse to wait in line? It felt natural to get my own ticket and that feeling made me suspicious. Often, what I assume is natural becomes absurd when I take the time to think about it. Even when there is no line at the counter I see people use the ticket machines. They promise more than convenience; they promise to safeguard your individuality. You do not have to wait in line, but can instead cut through the anonymous crowd. The individual versus the crowd is the great American fantasy that defines our identity as consumers. Most of us remember the classic Cold War image of Soviet workers standing in long lines for soap. Life without capitalism, we're shown, is waiting in a hungry crowd. The only cure for state incompetence is the marketplace,

an economic theory that David Harvey writes about in *A Brief History of Neo-liberalism*. It is "the assumption that individual freedoms are guaranteed by the freedom of the marketplace." It is an assumption that we see in the ritual of automating the service sector; where before one waited with others, flirting, gossiping with strangers, now we arrive at the theater as individual competitors. As I got my ticket, some of the machines broke down and people began slapping the screens but there was no one to help because the staff was cut. As more of our life is automated, outsourced or privatized, we become competitors not just for movie tickets, but for jobs, housing, education and healthcare. Our neo-liberal freedom has become a cage. While going to my seat I remembered the Fandango commercial where a man who did not use the automated ticket service arrived to

the theater too late. Instead of giving up, he performed silly antics, dressing up, acting out roles to get in as the pretty clerk smiled. Stranded outside of the film, he became the characters he wanted to see. I wondered, as education becomes more expensive and low-skill jobs automated and outsourced, how will we pay for the tickets to our American fantasy? Instead of buying individuality will we finally be forced to create it?



Masaoka's style of juggling several time signatures with Tai Chi movement. Dedicated to sparking media attention to serial murders of female prostitutes in the Mission District of San Francisco, Masaoka's project was multi-faceted. She spearheaded a panel discussion series in reaction to the media's flippant ignorance of the incidents. In the forum, people discussed about community awareness, the commodification of sex, and dangerous intricacies of sex work. The project as a cohesive whole had a vitality that depended on the fusion of music and activism. She collaborated with piano innovator Cecil Taylor, debuted cello and field recordings and assembled installations. Then her choice of main interdisciplinary players took a bizarre turn: insects and plants. Masaoka conceived "Ritual with Giant Hissing Madagascar Cockroaches" and "Pieces for Plants" from the same platform. The complexity of insects and plants fascinates Masaoka, whether it is bee hierarchy, the curious way cockroaches creepily discover the naked flesh, skin as a blank slate, or plants as metaphors for unwanted immigrants. Masaoka thrusts EEG electrodes on a houseplant to conduct a cacophony in its natural habitat. Masaoka performs songs the way cockroaches discover a human's body: madly, intuitively and at risk of triggering a colony of dissonant white hissing noise. She reigns in the avant-garde tradition as a composer of many trades. Whether it is the 12-string zither of a koto or its laser adaptation, hissing cockroaches or electrode-stimulated houseplants, she is a spellbinding explorer of the foreign canvas. Miya Masaoka's next New York performance will be at Merkin Hall on Oct. 5. She will be playing with her trio, Chironomy with Samir Chatterjee and Taylor Ho Bynum, as well as two solo pieces.

—KAREN FU

Sex on the Beach

HEADING SOUTH
(VERS LE SUD) (2005)
DIRECTED BY
LAURENT CANTET

Heading South, directed by French filmmaker Laurent Cantet and inspired by the literature of Haitian author Dany Lafferiere, takes a look at the sex tourism industry in Haiti during Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier's oppressive regime in the late 1970s. The opening monologue explains how the main character, Ellen (Charlotte Rampling) arrived at her sexual peak: on a beach, raping a teenage Haitian boy as her husband waited in the hotel. This shocking secret, revealed at the beginning of the film, is then completely overshadowed by the sob stories of three

middle-aged white women fleeing neglect and broken homes. They come to "paradise" to shed their inhibitions, seeking love and sex from Haitian men in a secluded resort called Hotel Petite Anse. Menothy Cesar plays Legba, 15, the lead male and object of desire, who has Ellen (Charlotte Rampling) and Brenda (Karen Young) infatuated with "the way he looks" at them, revealing their own insecurities about their sexual appeal. The movie uses the setting of 1970s Haiti to highlight how the struggle for social and economic stability affects the everyday lives of those who are involved both in and outside of the sex industry. By asking the audience to identify with middle-aged, sexually and racially perverse white women, the film ignores the fact that they are committing sex crimes, including pedophilia. They are shown more as victims of dysfunctional relationships, rather than racially and economically privileged women with psychological issues. An interesting theme in Heading South is that of the power dynamic

between sex workers and clients. Do sex workers have agency, or are they the victims of a global sex industry? This issue is demonstrated by portraying Legba as a sex worker who chooses what women he wants to work for while rejecting offers to move to the United States. Layered with more themes than it can tackle, the film must nevertheless be commended for shedding light on the complexities of sexuality, race, sociopolitical instability and, most importantly, the notion of agency among black male sex workers. The fact that this film is a French production speaks volumes to its sympathetic portrayal of the Western experience and the underdevelopment of the Haitian characters. On a more emotional note, the movie reinforces the ideas that money can't buy love, and that confusing love, sex, and power will leave one brokenhearted. Heading South is currently playing at Angelika Film Center, Lincoln Plaza Cinemas, and Kew Gardens Cinemas.

—ORLY CLERGÉ



ISBN 1-931859-35-3

\$12

NO ONE IS ILLEGAL
FIGHTING RACISM AND STATE VIOLENCE ON THE BORDER

MIKE DAVIS AND JUSTIN AKERS CHACÓN

NO ONE IS ILLEGAL
FIGHTING RACISM AND STATE VIOLENCE ON THE BORDER

"In an environment where the Right sets the agenda and where liberal opposition sidelines itself in the debate, any discussion of immigration is corrupted by a litany of lies and deceptions. While vigilantes go unchallenged in the streets, so too do the misconceptions that they exploit to take advantage of peoples' fears and uncertainties. While opposition has been absent from liberal organizations, grassroots efforts ... will determine in which direction immigration politics will go in the next years."

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TUE AUGUST 15 @ 7pm • FREE
READING: RADICAL ANDY *ANARCHIST PROPAGANDA*
Radical Andy's literary debut combines magical realism, poetry, and simple, direct prose.

WED AUGUST 16 @ 7pm • \$5 SUGG
DISCUSSION: "TOWARDS PLEASURE STRUGGLE: A TRAVELOGUE"
Join social permaculturalist Xtn Hansen as he recounts a year's travel.

WED AUGUST 23 @ 7pm • FREE
READING: JOE MENO, TODD DILLS, MICKEY HESS AND T COOPER
Readings by Joe Meno, author of *Hairstyles of the Damned* and the new novel *The Boy Detective Fails*; Todd Dills, author of *Sons of the Rapture*; McSweeney's contributor Mickey Hess; and T Cooper, author of *Lipshitz Six*, or *Two Angry Blondes*.

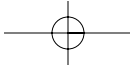
THU AUGUST 24 @ 7pm • \$5 - \$10 SUGG
THROUGH THE LENS FILM SERIES
Featuring: Zack Winestine *States of Control*
Director Zack Winestine's most recent film is the feature-length documentary, *Caravan/Prague*.

SUN AUGUST 27 @ 3pm • FREE
READING: DEVON HARRIS *YES, I CAN!*
Author Devon Harris, an original member of the Jamaican bobsled team and an athlete ambassador for Right To Play, chronicles the experiences of the Jamaican bobsled team,

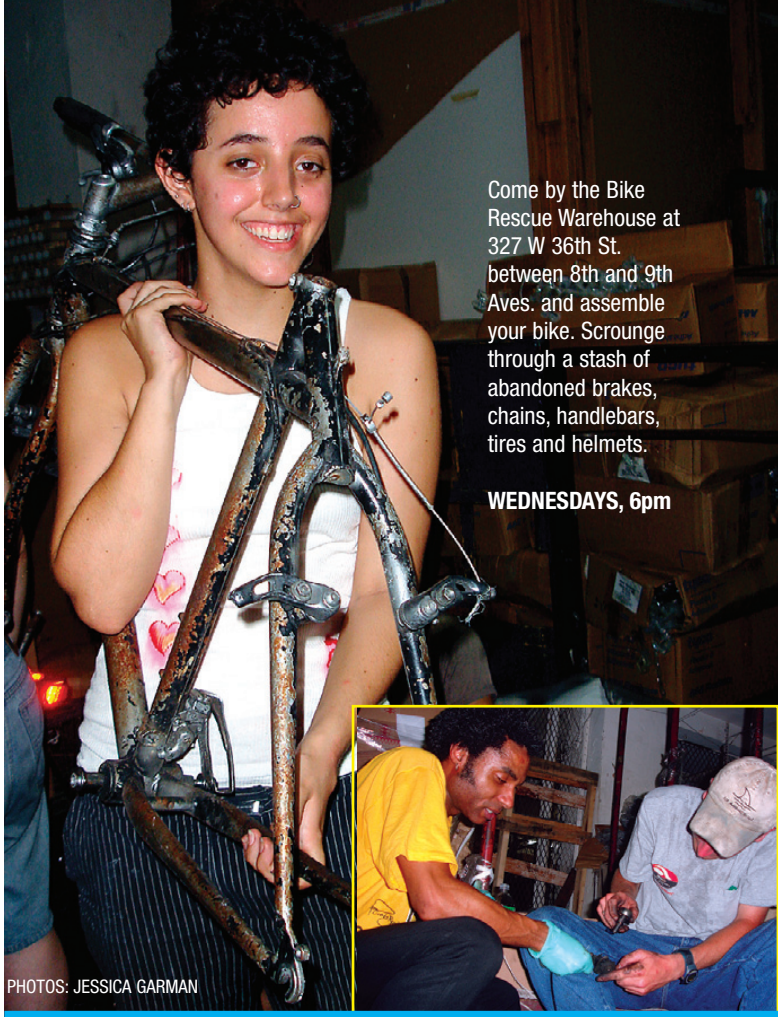
MON AUGUST 28 @ 7pm • FREE
READING: FRED GLYNN *WHO WERE THE REAL AUTHORS OF THE BIBLE?*
Journalist Fred Glynn reveals the Bible to be an entirely human invention designed to serve the political purposes of the authors' times.

TUE AUG 29 @ 7PM • FREE
WOMEN'S POETRY JAM & WOMEN'S OPEN MIKE
Featuring: Leslie Feinberg & An Xiao

THE INDEPENDENT JULY 20 - AUGUST 9, 2006 11



BRINGING DEAD BIKES BACK TO LIFE



PHOTOS: JESSICA GARMAN

Come by the Bike Rescue Warehouse at 327 W 36th St. between 8th and 9th Aves. and assemble your bike. Scrounge through a stash of abandoned brakes, chains, handlebars, tires and helmets.

WEDNESDAYS, 6pm

THE INDYPENDENT

has open meetings every Tuesday at 7pm
imc-nyc-print@lists.indymedia.org at
4 West 43rd St., room 311.

NOW – THU AUG 28 FREE

ACTION: NATIONAL HUNGER STRIKE AGAINST THE WAR IN IRAQ. Declaration of Peace: a nationwide campaign to establish a concrete & rapid plan for peace in Iraq. Declaration signers across the U.S. will engage in nonviolent civil disobedience & direct action – as well as other events & activities. Sponsors: CODEPINK: Women for Peace, Global Exchange, Gold Star Families for Peace. Info: www.troopshomefast.org & campdemocracy.org/

MON AUG 7 – FRI AUG 11 FREE

ACTION: WEEK OF EMERGENCY ACTION TO DEMAND A CEASEFIRE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. Activities range from lobbying visits, to picket lines and vigils, to nonviolent civil disobedience. Sponsor: United for Peace & Justice. Info: unitedforpeace.org

MON AUG 7 – SUN AUG 13

Donation suggested
FILMS: 4TH BRAZILIAN FILM FESTIVAL. Tribeca Cinemas. Info: 877-273-4563 • brazilianfilmfestival.com

THU AUG 10 – THU AUG 24

7:30 pm • \$6/\$10/\$15 suggested
FILMS: BLACK AUGUST FILM FESTIVAL.
Thu Aug 10: *All Power to the People: The Black Panther Party & Beyond*, rare clips of Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, Fred Hampton & other activists;
Tue Aug 15: *The Murder of Fred Hampton*, Illinois Black Panther leader Fred Hampton murdered as he lay face down in his bed;
Thu Aug 17: *The Battle of Algiers*, insurrection in Algiers by the FLN against French colonial rule;
Tue Aug 22: *Uptight*, updated remake of John Ford's *The Informer* set in the days just following the assassination of Martin Luther King;
Thu Aug 24: *Nothing But a Man*, uplifting love story about a man & a woman whose bond overcomes racial & class barriers.

Brecht Forum
451 West St. • 212-242-4201,
brechtforum.org

THU AUG 10

7 pm • \$5 suggested
Film: *Act of War: The Overthrow of the Hawaiian Nation*. See Hawaiian history through Hawaiian eyes. Discussion follows film, led by Jesse Lokahi Heiwa (Hawai'i Solidarity Cmt).
Bluestockings, 172 Allen St. • 212-777-6028,
myspace.com/bluestockingsnyc &
bluestockings.com

FRI AUG 11

7 pm • FREE
READING: *CALL MY NAME THE WIND*. W/David Oser.
The troubled journey of Matt Steele, who in response to violent events conceals his Native background & descends into a quagmire of white supremacist violence & despair.
Bluestockings, 172 Allen St. • 212-777-6028,
myspace.com/bluestockingsnyc &
bluestockings.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

august

SAT AUG 12

11:30am – 1:30pm • FREE
PROTEST: TO END TORTURE & CLOSE GUANTANAMO.
At Times Sq. Recruiting Center
brooklynbluebird@vitw.org

9:30am – 2pm • FREE
GRASSROOTS ARTISTS MOVEMENT to prevent youth incarceration. Music, gifts for kids, hip-hop, spoken word
Claremont Park
Teller Ave. & E. 170th St.
Aurelia Green: 718-538-2000

SUN AUG 13

11am – 3pm • \$5 suggested
(potluck, please come w/a vegetarian dish or \$5 to help pay for food.)
EVENT: JEWS FOR RACIAL & ECONOMIC JUSTICE (JFREJ) ANNUAL PICNIC. Featuring arts, music & action to promote racial & economic justice.
At Prospect Park behind the Boathouse near Prospect Park West & 6th St.
Info/RSVP: 212-647-8966 x15, 646-202-3962 (day of), danajfrej@yahoo.com

MON AUG 14

7pm • FREE
EVENT: RELEASE PARTY FOR "BLACKOUT!"
What happens when the power goes out on a hot summer day in the big city?
W/Martin Perna (founder of musical group Antibalas & Ocote Soul Sounds), Ricardo Cortes (author & illustrator of *It's Just a Plant*).
Bluestockings, 172 Allen St. • 212-777-6028,
myspace.com/bluestockingsnyc &
bluestockings.com

WED AUG 16

6-8pm • FREE
Forum: "GENTRIFICATION, DISPLACEMENT & THE SURVIVAL OF THE BLACK HISTORIC METROPOLIS OF HARLEM: An analysis of Harlem's 'Second Renaissance.'" Harlem community forum w/economist, political scientists, historic preservationist & a mental health clinician on market forces, public policy, cultural & political forces shaping a "new Harlem" that is enriching some while driving out others: the poor, the working class & Harlem's middle class base. Sponsor: Harlem Tenants St. Ambrose Episcopal Church, 9 W 130th St. Council. 212-234-5005,
harlemtenants@aol.com

WED AUG 16

7pm • \$5 suggested
DISCUSSION: *TOWARDS PLEASURE STRUGGLE: A TRAVELOGUE*. W/social permaculturalist Xtn Hansen recounting a year's travel through Chiapas, Central America, Argentina, Europe, Israel & Palestine. Through slides & stories he discusses building community across boundaries of culture, politics, gender, sexuality & faith.
Bluestockings, 172 Allen St. • 212-777-6028,
myspace.com/bluestockingsnyc &
bluestockings.com

THU AUG 17

7pm • FREE
FORUM: ON NYPD'S PLAN TO REQUIRE PERMITS FOR GROUPS OF CYCLISTS & PEDESTRIANS, allowing police to arrest people in groups of 20+ cyclists, 35+ pedestrians, even as few as two persons for parading w/out a permit. Help build a coalition & vigorous public dissent to prevent this attack on our rights.
St. Mark's Church, 2nd Ave & 10th St.
Robert@PureMix.net & times-up.org

WED AUG 23

7:30pm – \$3; \$6 for supper at 7pm.
EVENT: 1ST-HAND REPORTBACK FROM "REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM SUMMER" in Jackson, MS. Sponsor: Radical Women. Freedom Hall, 113 W 128th St
Info/childcare: 212-222-0633,
fsprw@nycr.net & radicalwomen.org

SAT AUG 27

11am – 4pm • FREE
EVENT: 1ST ANNUAL NYC FESTIVAL FOR GENDER EQUALITY. Public event for education, networking, resource sharing, community interaction & arts & recreation, featuring arts organizations, service groups, youth organizations, school & nonprofits from throughout NYC.
Sponsor: Girls for Gender Equity. Von King Park Cultural Center
Corner of Tompkins Ave & Lafayette St, Bklyn. 718-857-1393 • intern@gges.info

TUE AUGUST 28

7pm • \$5 suggested
PERFORMANCE: WOMEN'S POETRY JAM & WOMEN'S OPEN MIC. W/Leslie Feinberg & An Xiao. Hosted by Vittoria Repetto. Open mic sign-up starts at 7 pm. Bluestockings, 172 Allen St. • 212-777-6028, myspace.com/bluestockingsnyc &
bluestockings.com

ONGOING

EVERY DAY

7 – 9am
ACTION: ENCAMPMENT TO DEFEND NUEVA ESPERANZA COMMUNITY GARDEN & over 20 other endangered community gardens in East Harlem. Encampment began 2nd week of 5/06.
110th St. & 5th Ave.
Al: 914-652-1435, Aresh: 917-518-9987.
More info: 917-518-9987 & moregardens.org

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greenspeakers.org/rsvp.cgi.
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greenspeakers.org

EVERY TUES

Noon – 2pm • FREE
VIGIL: STOP THE GENOCIDE IN DARFUR, SUDAN.
The Sudanese government has been waging a campaign of destruction against targeted African communities since 2003. Participants give witness to the ongoing genocide & call on the US to work for a resolution at the UN authorizing a UN peacekeeping force in Darfur w/a mandate to protect civilians.
Sponsor: Africa Action.
US Mission to the UN, 140 E. 45th St.
Info: Helga Moor, helgamoor@yahoo.com &
africaaction.org/campaign_new/darfur.php

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5 – 8pm
FROM BOOKS THRU BARS
Packing sessions at ABC No Rio.
156 Rivington St.

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Issue #3 A FREE PAPER FOR FREE KIDS

Issue #4 May-June 2006 A FREE PAPER FOR FREE KIDS

Coalfield Kid

By CHRISTAL GUINNESS

Kids in Charge

By Sarah Shattell

INDIA QUICK FACTS

POPULATION: 1.1 billion (JUN. 2005)
LANGUAGES: 11 major languages.
RELIGION: 80% of the people are Hindu. The remaining 20% are Muslim, Christian, and others.
HUNGER: 20% of Indian adults are malnourished (national nutrition monitoring survey).

LEARN A LITTLE HINDI

Yes	Haan	No	Nahi
How	Kaise	What	Kya
Where	Kahaan	When	Kab
Who	Kisko	Why	Kyun
What	Kya	How many	Kitni
Which	Kaunsa	How much	Kitna
Whom	Kisko	How long	Kitni der
Whose	Kiska	How far	Kitni door
Which one	Kaunsa	How often	Kitni baar
Which way	Kiska	How soon	Kitni jaldi
Which time	Kiska	How many times	Kitni baar
Which place	Kiska	How many people	Kitni log
Which thing	Kiska	How many things	Kitni cheez
Which person	Kiska	How many persons	Kitni log
Which animal	Kiska	How many animals	Kitni janwar
Which plant	Kiska	How many plants	Kitni palak
Which fruit	Kiska	How many fruits	Kitni phal
Which vegetable	Kiska	How many vegetables	Kitni sabzi
Which flower	Kiska	How many flowers	Kitni phool
Which leaf	Kiska	How many leaves	Kitni patli
Which root	Kiska	How many roots	Kitni moti
Which stem	Kiska	How many stems	Kitni tang
Which branch	Kiska	How many branches	Kitni dala
Which seed	Kiska	How many seeds	Kitni bijn
Which fruit	Kiska	How many fruits	Kitni phal
Which vegetable	Kiska	How many vegetables	Kitni sabzi
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Which branch	Kiska	How many branches	Kitni dala
Which seed	Kiska	How many seeds	Kitni bijn

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